

Demo Delay Ordered on Historic Home

By **KEITH L. MARTIN**

The Historical Commission has placed a six-month demolition delay on a King Caesar Road home to try to find a way to preserve parts of the dwelling they've deemed historically significant.

On Wednesday, the group decided to impose the delay on the home of John and Kathleen McLaughlin at 130 King Caesar Road. The McLaughlins sought permission to tear down their current dwelling and in its place construct a home of around 2,000-square-feet which they are allowed to do under town bylaws. Because of a question on the historical nature of their home, however, they were referred to the Historical Commission for a review.

At a public hearing in November, the Commission ruled that after two site visits to the dwelling, they felt that parts of the home likely date back to 1886 or earlier, relying on a plan of the estate of "King Caesar" Ezra Weston. The plan shows two structures, a main house and a chicken coop or pig sty, that were probably part of the McLaughlins home and now connected by a small porch.

Earlier in the year, at a public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals, Duxbury Rural and Historical Society President David Jenkins also presented this theory, producing a map from 1845 that showed the same two structures were part of Weston's former farmland.

Historical Commission member Norman Tucker said these factors and details his group saw upon a home inspection, including peg beams and ceiling panels dat-

ing back to around 1935, were the main reasons to impose the delay.

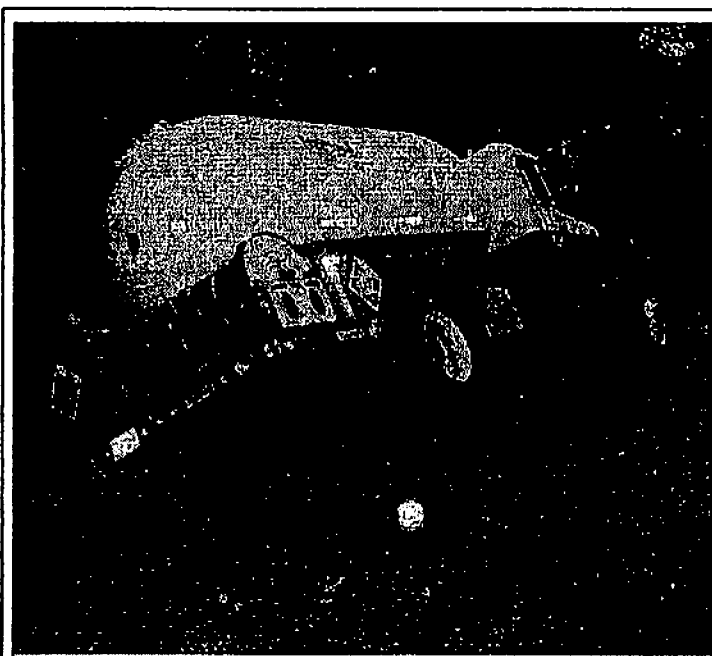
"We had a lengthy discussion about these issues and hoped someone would come forward to save or preserve one if not both of the buildings," he said. "There will now be an effort on the part of the Commission to work with the owners of the property and other interested parties to find some means to either incorporate...the existing structures into new plans or to have them moved to another site."

At November's public hearing, John McLaughlin indicated that there was no way he could incorporate the structures into a new design as they were structurally unsound in terms of age,

height and dimension for a modern home. Powder Point Avenue resident Robert Vose stepped forward at that hearing as one potential party to move the chicken coop structure to his land for its preservation.

So while the move to save the structures is underway, the demolition delay is only good for six months. Tucker said that this means as of six months and one minute after the Commission's decision was issued, the property owner can tear down the structure.

Calls to the McLaughlins regarding comments on the Commission's decision and future negotiations to save the structures were not returned by press time.



PRO-PAINFULLY STUCK: This Hometown Propane truck got stuck in the muck last Tuesday on Holmes Place thanks to all the heavy rain turning the road to mud. While police blocked the roadway, fire officials set up a water line for precaution. Another propane truck was called to empty the fuel from the stuck tanker while a tow truck then towed the rig out of the mud. Fire officials said no one was injured in the incident.